

the inner wall 24 of the docking section 22 by the fifth support structure (not shown in FIG. 6 but exemplified in FIG. 2 and in section in FIG. 10). The diameter of the tubular segment 61 may vary from its superior end 64 to its inferior end 66, but in the expanded condition the diameter of the superior end 64 must be slightly larger than the aortic neck 12 to which it is to be attached, and the diameter of the inferior end 66 must be slightly larger than the diameter of the lumen of the docking section 22 to which it is to be attached. It will be appreciated that in the event that the material of the first 20 and second 60 elements is not elastically expandable, and that if the diameter of an element is smaller than the diameter of the lumen to which it is to be attached, a proper fluid seal cannot be formed.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 26 and 27, cancel claims 28 and 29, and add new claims 30 - 37 as follows:

26. (Amended) A method for repairing an aorta in an area proximate renal arteries and having a point of bifurcation, using a graft assembly including a first element and a second element, the first element having a bifurcation junction, first and second legs extending from the bifurcation junction, a sealing stent disposed distal to the bifurcation junction, and a plurality of attaching devices at least one of which is operatively associated with each of the first and second legs, comprising:

inserting the first element within the aorta;

configuring the bifurcation junction of the first element at the point of bifurcation of the aorta such that the graft spans and is supported by the point of bifurcation; actuating the attaching devices to affix the first and second legs within the aorta; attaching the second element to the first element subsequent to actuating the attaching devices to affix the first and second legs; and

fixating the second element superior to the renal arteries.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the first element includes a docking site, further comprising:

attaching the second element to the docking site of the first element.

30. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the first element includes at least one bracing wire extending from one of the first and second limbs to the docking site for supporting the bifurcation junction of the first element.

31. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein a diseased portion is located between the renal arteries and point of bifurcation, further comprising:

configuring the first element in the body lumen so that the docking site is free floating within the diseased portion.

32. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising overlapping the second element with the docking site of the first element to form a seal.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the body lumen has a length, further comprising:

adjusting the seal of the second element with the docking site of the first element to span the length of the body lumen.

34. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising:

securing the second element inferior to the renal arteries.

35. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the second element includes an inner lumen, and a support system with hooks attached inside the inner lumen, further comprising:

actuating the support system so the hooks extend through the second element and into the aorta.

36. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the second element includes a superior and inferior end, and a support system with hooks attached to the superior end of the second element, further comprising:

actuating the support system so the hooks are secured to the aorta.